



OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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We've achieved much these last few months, yet much more remains to be accomplished. On Thursday, December 16, the Board of County Commissioners approved several **critically important** projects.

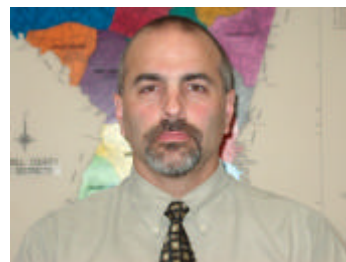
The VHF (High Band) simulcast paging system was awarded to Motorola, Inc. at a cost of \$445,404. In addition, Motorola was also awarded the task of upgrading MOSCAD & Site Lens (SIMS), a two-part effort that will drastically improve our ability to monitor the performance of our 800 MHz trunked radio system (including its extensive infrastructure), as well as provide essential radio system management and operational tools. The combined benefits of this

two-part upgrade will afford us the opportunity to detect minor problems and take immediate steps to correct them in order to preserve the radio systems proper operation and avoid major failure. The cost of these upgrades is \$445,101.

The long-awaited Lineboro Communications Tower is well on the way to becoming reality. Construction of the 1/2 mile access road is nearly complete and the site has been cleared. Electrical service should occur shortly which will allow construction to the access road to be completed, the tower ground-based infrastructure be installed, and the actual tower erected.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the dedicated OPS-SS staff,

the deeply appreciated cooperation and assistance received from the many County agencies and unwavering support of the County Commissioners, we have reached many new milestones. I am confident that a continuation of this same "Team" effort will allow us to realize many more in the future.



Scott Campbell is Acting Administrator of the Office of Public Safety-Support Services

Special points of interest:

- Closed for the following holidays:

Jan. 17—MLK, Jr. Day

Feb. 21—Presidents Day

Mar. 25—Good Friday

Special Event:

County Employees

Winter Dinner-Dance
Jan. 8

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GROUP BEGINS THIRD YEAR

The Carroll County Disaster Preparedness Group celebrates the beginning of its third year this January.

The Group, headed up by Carroll County Health Officer Larry Leitch, is comprised of individuals representing several agencies throughout the County that meet monthly to coordinate efforts in improving

and rewriting the County's Emergency Operations Plan.

The marathon effort began in earnest in 2003. Although some faces have changed, the focus has always been working to help prepare the County for all hazards. During the course of the two years, several speakers have informed the group in presentations. Among them

have been the FBI, Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Marshal Service.

Hats go off to this group who has diligently pursued the safety and protection of the residents of Carroll County. Well Done!



FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

By Bryan S. Van Fossen

A house is the single, biggest investment that most people make. Protecting that investment, and most importantly protecting the safety of family members, can be improved with the installation of a residential sprinkler system. Once mainly found in commercial buildings, sprinklers are now being installed in residences to suppress small fires before they become large.

The Maryland State Fire Prevention Code requires all new multi-family residences to have

sprinkler systems installed. Over 400 jurisdictions across the U.S. now require sprinklers to be installed in ALL new residences.

Residential sprinklers are now an option as determined by the Carroll County subdivision regulations where four or more lots are being developed. With an approximate cost of a new house of about \$1.00 per square foot, or roughly 1% of the total construction cost, a sprinkler system is a good long-term insurance policy against fire loss.

While we can engineer fire protection through sprinklers in homes, there is still no substitute for common sense fire prevention. This includes (but is not limited to) an escape plan which should be made and practiced by all members, correct fire extinguishers, proper storage of flammables, and a working smoke detector.

Sprinkler protection will become more common in residences. Prevention, early detection, and quick suppression are vital in saving lives and property.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

-VHF PAGING-

By Bill Martin

The Office of Public Safety Support Services continues to move forward with the acquisition of Motorola Minitor IV pagers.

As of this writing, 214 pagers have been received and issued, 77 pagers have arrived and are being processed and an order for 80 additional pagers has been submitted.

To date, \$107,166.00 of FY 03

and \$30,620.00 of FY 04 State Homeland Security Grant Program funds have been expended to purchase a total of 371 Minitor IV pagers and 310 amplified chargers.

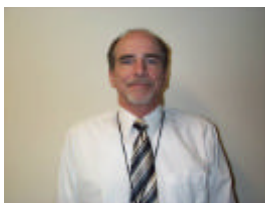
It is anticipated that the purchase of the remaining 315 pagers and 140 amplified chargers will occur some time in January, using available County funds.

The Fire and Rescue Operations Committee has requested that the pagers be engraved

with company name before being released to the individual companies. Communications Tech Mike Valentine will perform the engraving and coordinate issue of the pagers with Chiefs 6 and 9.

North Carroll Communications has acquired status as a direct agent for Motorola. With exception of the first order of 214, all pager purchases for this project will be made through North Carroll Communications.

"...the purchase of the remaining 315 pagers and 140 amplified chargers will occur sometime in January, using available County funds."



Jeff Waltman hopes to apply his knowledge, experience, and devotion to his new position as GIS Analyst.

OPS-SS WELCOMES JEFFREY N. WALTMAN

The Office of Public Safety-Support Services would like to welcome our new GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Analyst, Jeffrey N. Waltman.

Jeff comes to Carroll County government from the County of Adams, Pennsylvania GIS/Mapping Office where he was

employed for 9 years. One of his duties was the development and maintenance of GIS data for the County's Department of Emergency Services E911 system.

His background includes career and volunteer emergency services experience where he served as a firefighter/EMT,

deputy fire marshal, and fire shift commander.

He also has a degree in Fire Science Technology and an anticipated completion of a GIS certificate early next year.

His duties will include creation, maintenance, and management of the County's GIS systems.



FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER



WHY A MINI-ATTACK (Special Unit) IN WESTMINSTER?

By Chief Kevin Utz

The operations officers and administrators of our department have been reviewing the fire response statistics over the past two years trying to determine the best protection for the community we serve.

Statistics have shown that there are few fires, yet an overwhelming number of service call responses, personal injury collisions, and medical assists.

Other important factors observed have been the decreasing

number of volunteers and the available number of Class B non-commercial and CDL drivers. The final factors were the number of hard-to-access communities, large complexes, and the ability to quickly access foam for crash/rescue at the regional airport.

After all factors were considered, it was recognized that there was a need for a specialized piece of apparatus that would meet the requirements of most calls. It was decided that a mini-attack pumper

would fill this role.

A secondary benefit of this apparatus is that drivers with a Class C license who are MFRI pump trained can operate this unit.

The vehicle is a 2005 Ford 550 XLT, 2 door, 500 GPM, 250 gal. water, and 15 gal. **B** foam. It's also equipped with an Apollo master stream and carries 500' of 5" and 500' of 3" hose. There will be two crosslays of 200' of 1 3/4" hose. There will also be a trash line. More details will be forthcoming.



Chief Kevin Utz
Westminster VFD



Pictured is the new Westminster VFD 2005 Ford 550 XLT Mini-Attack unit that will go in service within the next few weeks.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

By Major Tom Long

On October 20, 2004, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office accepted delivery of a new Mobile Command Center (MCC) designated as a mobile command post and communications platform during events or critical incidents requiring the coordination of multiple resources.

Thirty-eight feet in length, the MCC's equipment includes a

video camera with VCR mounted on a thirty-five foot expandable mast, 4 mobile radio consoles, cellular telephones, on-board heating, air conditioning and generators, external lighting, fax and copying machines, and telephone/radio capabilities.

With approval, the MCC will be made available to all of Carroll's law enforcement and emergency response agencies.



9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

By Mike Munshaur

The 911 Center staffing will increase to six per shift in January as training for the new full time personnel is completed.

Training begins with the County orientation class followed by our own "what to expect" class. They will begin a 40 hour Maryland State Certification Class for 911 call-

takers/dispatchers is geared to new hires. Once completed, training becomes specific to Carroll.

Trainees will go through 100 hours of training in four categories: 911 call taking, Fire & EMS dispatching, operating talk groups for Fire & EMS, and Sheriff's dispatch before they are allowed to go on their own. Classroom time

computes to about 160 hours.

Three classes are also taken outside: Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) which requires CPR as a prerequisite, Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD), and CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) which allows running of tags and checking warrants through state and national systems.

EMD, EPD, CPR, and CJIS all

require re-certifications at least every two years. The 911 Center also has bimonthly dispatcher meetings to go over any problems as well as policy and procedure changes made by the Fire Service or Sheriff's Office. A lot of time and effort go into the training and maintaining the skill levels that is required to be a 911 dispatcher.



Carroll County Government

WELCOME TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SUPPORT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

“Communication—the key to understanding.”

The mission of this quarterly newsletter is to promote effective communication between all departments and agencies and to create an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in support of open government.



T.E.A.M.

Together

Emergencies

Are

Manageable

WORDFIND PUBLIC SAFETY

D U L C I L B U P P N S L
O I E F P O I T A T S L T
R R S H E R R I T W O N U
M E N P M U O Y K R T X N
C G L O A F S I R D I B Y
A A N L E T Q A D E W O T
N P Q I M O C A D A R E E
T B H C E W O H M E R I F
O C D E R E S C E O B M A
W A T E G R F F I R E H S
E Y C N E G R E M E X Q I
O A B E O S T A T I O N S

**DISPATCHER, SHERIFF, PLAN,
PUBLIC, FIRE, CAD, POLICE,
RADIO, SAFETY, TOWER, CAR-
ROLL, CHIEF, PAGER, EMER-
GENCY, STATION**

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FULLY UNDERWAY



By George Thomas

On October 30, 2000, Public Law 106-390, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 became law. This law placed emphasis on state and local mitigation planning for natural hazards and established the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PMD) grant program.

Local governments were required to prepare and adopt a hazard mitigation program as a condition of receiving grant funds and to review and update the local plan every 5 years.

Mitigation measures help to reduce the amount of damage

from disasters, the costs of reconstruction, and the amount of money and resources needed in the post disaster period.

In March 02,, Carroll County received notice from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) PMD grant program that funding was available for Maryland jurisdictions to participate. In October 02, Carroll was notified that their request had been accepted.

Work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) began with a team consisting of employees of the Planning Department and Public Safety Office.

A public workshop was held on August 04 and on 9/1/04 the final draft was sent to MEMA. After review by MEMA, it was submitted to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on 11/1/04. On 11/15/04, FEMA responded with acceptance of the HMP.

The final step is the plan adoption process which should be completed during the first quarter of 05.

This document will allow Carroll County to look at areas of concern prior to a disaster and see what might be done to address these concerns.

The Office of Public Safety Support Services newsletter is published quarterly. News and articles may be forwarded to:
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Emergency Management Planner
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